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NRO review(s)
completed.

Attachment to:

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1. NPIC Definition of Photographic Interpretation (PI) Suitability

OAK Report Interpretability Ratings (KH-4A vs. 4B):

- 1/ 2. Worldwide & Communist Countries -- All Weather -- All Targets
 3. Worldwide & Communist Countries -- CLEAR Only -- All Targets
 4. Communist Countries -- CLEAR Only & All Weather -- All Targets --
 Ranking of 13 Missions
- 2/ 5. Communist Countries -- All Weather -- Ground Force Targets
 6. Communist Countries -- CLEAR Only -- Ground Force Targets
- 3/ 7. Communist Countries -- All Weather -- Heavy & Medium Bomber
 Airfields
 8. Communist Countries -- CLEAR Only -- Heavy & Medium Bomber
 Airfields
- 4/ 9. Communist Countries -- All Weather -- Fighter Airfields
 10. Communist Countries -- CLEAR Only -- Fighter Airfields
 11. Communist Countries -- All Weather -- All Targets -- Atmospherics
 12. Communist Countries -- All Weather -- First 25 Operational Revs
13. Communist Countries -- CLEAR Only -- 34 Representative Targets
 From 13 Missions

1/ 11,175 targets2/ COMIREX 7A.3/ COMIREX 2A1 and 2A2 (2005, 2010, 2011), 47 targets4/ COMIREX 2A4 (2020, 2021, 2022, 2025, 2026, 2027), 292 targets

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PART VI. PI SUITABILITY

A. Definition of Photographic Interpretation (PI) Suitability

The PI suitability is an assessment of the information content of photographic reconnaissance material and its interpretability. A number of interrelated factors are involved, such as the quality of the photography, the extent of target coverage, scale, and weather limitations. However, the fundamental criteria for assigning a PI suitability rating may be reduced to (a) the scope of the photographic coverage and (b) the degree to which a photographic interpreter may extract useful and reliable information from the material.

PI suitability ratings are categorized as Excellent, Good, Fair, Poor, and Unusable. These ratings refer to the overall interpretive value of the photography obtained from a particular reconnaissance mission. Individual targets may also be assigned PI suitability ratings. The standards that determine assignment of the various ratings are:

Excellent: The photography is free of degradations by camera malfunctions or processing faults and the weather conditions are favorable throughout. The imagery contains sharp, well-defined edges and corners with no unusual distortions. Contrast is optimum and shadow details, as well as details in the highlight areas, are readily detectable. Observation of small objects and high order of mensuration are made possible by the consistently good quality of the photography.

Good: The photography is relatively free of degradation or limiting atmospheric conditions. Edges and corners are well defined. No unusual distortions are present. Detection and accurate mensuration of small objects are feasible, but to a lesser degree than in material rated as "Excellent."

Fair: Degradation is present and the acuity of the photography is less than optimum. Edges and corners are not crisply defined and there is loss of detail in shadow and/or highlight areas. Detection and identification of small objects are possible, but accuracy of mensuration is reduced by the fall-off in image quality and the less than-optimum contrast that prevails.

Poor: Camera-induced degradations and/or weather limitations severely reduce the effectiveness of the photography. Definition of edges and corners is not sharp. Only gross terrain features and culture may be detected or identified and distortion of form may exist. Accurate mensuration of even large objects is doubtful.

Unuseable: Degradation of photography completely precludes detection, identification, and mensuration of cultural details.

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